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**Donna Conway**

100 Pearl Street Apt. #2, Keene, New Hampshire 03431

February 06, 2006 01:55 PM

Senator John Sununu  
U.S. Senate  
111 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Subject: Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service CC Docket 96-45

Dear Senator Sununu:

As someone who is concerned about increased taxes and telephone fees, I oppose Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Kevin J. Martin's plans to change the way monies are collected for the Universal Service Fund.

Chairman Martin is proposing a change in the Universal Service Fund (USF) collection methodology from a "pay-for-what-you-use" system to a "monthly flat-fee." The flat-fee system would result in forced phone bill hikes for me -- and for millions of low-volume, long-distance users in the U.S. Shifting the funding burden of the USF away from high volume users -- like big businesses -- and placing the weight on low-volume users -- students, prepaid wireless users, senior citizens and low-income residential and rural consumers-- is unfair. I urge Chairman Martin to rethink his flat-fee plan. It is a de-facto tax increase of as much as \$707 million for 43 million of low-volume, long-distance users in the U.S.

Please pass along my concerns to the FCC on my behalf, letting them know that your constituents have contacted you to oppose a USF numbers or flat-fee plan. Thank you for your continued work. I look forward to hearing about your position on this matter.

Sincerely,

Donna Conway

cc:

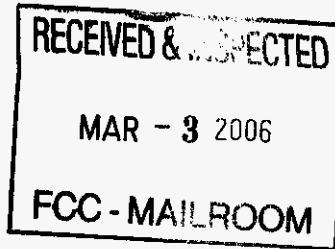
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February 15, 2006

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45 (Federal Universal Service Fund)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As Chief Information Officer at Fairleigh Dickinson University, I am writing to you with the hope of helping to convince you that the proposed number-based method of contributing to this fund is not the appropriate means for an institution such as ours. As a non-profit organization, any significant increase to regulatory fees would require us to seriously consider moving funds from our infrastructure and growth areas to the telecom budget. While I fully understand the need for the fund, I also know what is needed to keep our colleges and universities on the forward headed path toward new technologies and upgraded facilities to attract new students. Any monies moved away from those endeavors would negatively impact our recruitment efforts.

We exist in a centrex environment of approximately 3100 extensions and close to 200 POTS and special data circuits. Depending on the approach used to collect the funds, we could be realizing an increase many times the amount we are currently paying in contributions. Using solely a number based method would severely impact our financial burden.

I would request that all details being considered be looked at from each class of customer's perspective, be it residential, large business or non-profit. I would anticipate that no group be expected to absorb more than its fair share, and that no special consideration be given to one group over another. Lastly, I would hope that the Commission will taken the needed time to fully study and realize the impact before formally instituting the new method.

Respectfully,

Neal M. Sturm  
Associate VP & CIO

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# BAYLOR

U N I V E R S I T Y

February 24, 2006

John M. Lilley  
President

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

96-45

Dear Chairman Martin:

In your consideration of Universal Service reform, please adopt a fee structure for colleges and universities that takes into account unique features of our telecommunications networks used to advance the clear public good of higher education. As you know, postsecondary institutions are telecommunication-intensive organizations that maintain sizeable infrastructures to service faculty, staff, and students. Basing Universal Service fees on the size of that infrastructure rather than long distance revenues could have a negative impact on our telecommunications budget and divert resources from our educational mission.

Certain aspects of telecommunications usage at institutions of higher education should be considered as reform options are reviewed. Larger universities typically have many assigned numbers not currently in active use. In addition, many numbers may be used to service student facilities occupied for only part of the year. Finally, institutions of higher education have larger numbers of high capacity circuits to support research endeavors. A strict, number-based reform plan could be particularly burdensome to such campus telecommunications networks.

The telecommunications services afforded by the Universal Service Program to more removed, economically disadvantaged, educational, and health care customers serve an important public purpose. We support the program and understand the need to consider reform in light of declining long distance revenues. Nonprofit organizations such as colleges and universities also serve similar public goals, however, and should be treated differently than a standard "enterprise" customer in devising new Universal Service rates.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Best wishes,



John M. Lilley  
President

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